Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims shall replace all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1-2. (cancelled)

3. (withdrawn) A flap device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the torsionally stiff connection between the control element and the shaft portion comprises a groove-and-tongue connection.

4. (previously presented) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein the torsionally stiff connection between the control element and the shaft portion comprises a press fit.

5. (withdrawn) A flap device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the shaft portion and the control element are formed in one piece.

6. (previously presented) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein the shaft has a side which is flattened in the longitudinal direction of the shaft, and the control element bearing against said flattened side with a flat side and being fixable thereto in torsionally stiff relationship.

7-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) An insert ~~having a recess~~ comprising:

a plurality of openings each fitted with a flap device for influencing the flow cross-section in said plurality of openings wherein each flap device comprises a control element arranged in each opening.

~~and between each two neighbouring control elements~~ a shaft portion between each two neighboring control elements, each said shaft portion having a first and second end ~~and of~~ and a cranked configuration in a region between the first and second ends, ~~and~~

~~wherein said recess is~~ a recess positioned between said first and second ends of each said shaft portion, said recess capable of engaging connecting means, and

means for mounting the shaft portions rotatably with respect to the openings, and means operable to fix the two neighboring control elements in torsionally stiff relationship to the first and second end of the shaft portion.

13. (currently amended) A plurality of flap devices arranged in a row for influencing the flow cross section in a plurality of medium carrying conduits comprising:

a plurality of control elements each arrangeable in a respective one of said conduits,

a plurality of shaft portions each having a first and second end ~~and of a~~ and having a cranked configuration in a region between the first and second ends, one of said shaft portions being positioned between each two neighboring control elements,

means for mounting the shaft portions rotatably with respect to the conduits, and

means operable to fix first and second control elements in torsionally stiff relationship to the first and second ends of each of the shaft portions,

said row of flap devices having an axis of rotation and capable of being fitted with an insert having a recess capable of engaging connecting means, and wherein said recess is capable of extending beyond the axis of rotation of said flap device~~,~~

~~each of said shaft portions being positioned between each two control elements,~~

~~means for mounting the shaft portions rotatably with respect to the conduits, and~~

~~means operable to fix first and second control elements in torsionally stiff relationship to the first and second ends of each of the shaft portions~~.

14. (new) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein each of said control elements comprise a first and second sub-element being in torsionally stiff engagement with each other at the respective end of the respective sub-element which is remote from the shaft portion, the connection between the sub-elements having a play in the axial direction of the respective shaft

portion, and wherein the connection between the control element and the shaft portion comprises a press fit.

15. (new) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein the control element of each flap device comprises a first and a second sub-element being in torsionally stiff engagement with each other at the respective end of the respective sub-element which is remote from the shaft portion, the connection between the sub-elements having a play in the axial direction of the respective shaft portion and wherein the shaft portion and the control element are formed in one piece.

16. (new) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein said recess is capable of engaging connecting means for connecting said insert to a cylinder head of an internal combustion engine.

17. (new) An insert as set forth in claim 13, wherein said recess is capable of engaging connecting means for connecting said insert to a cylinder head of an internal combustion engine.